

CLAIMS

1. A method for printing an image directly from a film using a printer, where the printer may also function as a printer for a computer, comprising the steps of:
 - inserting the film into a film slot of the printer;
 - scanning at least one selected digital image from the film;
 - storing the at least one digital image that was scanned in memory;
 - and
 - printing the at least one digital image.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one selected digital image is selected from a menu of images available on the film.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the menu includes selection of a number of each digital image of the film that is desired to be printed.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the menu provides for selection of a desired number of prints of each selected digital image.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein a size of the digital image printed is selectable at the printer from a plurality of output image sizes.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the film slot is one of a plurality of film slots.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein one of the plurality of film slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a film strip for 35 mm film.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein one of the plurality of film slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a slide for 35 mm film.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the film is one of: a film with a negative image and a film with a positive image.
10. A method for using a printer to provide at least one print from a film, where the printer may also function as a printer for a computer, comprising the steps of:
 - scanning a desired portion of the film in the printer to provide a digital image; and
 - printing the digital image.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein a digital image for the at least one print is selected from a menu of images available on the film.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the menu further includes selection of a designation of each digital image of the film that is desired to be printed.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein the menu provides for selection of a desired number of prints of each selected digital image.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein a size of the digital image printed is selectable at the printer from a plurality of output image sizes.
15. The method of claim 11 wherein the film slot is one of a plurality of film slots.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein one of the plurality of film slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a film strip for 35 mm film.
17. The method of claim 15 wherein one of the plurality of film slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a slide for 35 mm film.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the film is one of: a film with a negative image and a film with a positive image.
19. A printer for, as well as printing output from a computer, printing images directly from a film, comprising:
- at least one paper-feeding slot, arranged to allow paper to feed into a printing mechanism of the printer;
 - at least one film-feeding slot, arranged to feed film into a scanner; the scanner, coupled to a control unit, for scanning at least one image from the film and storing at least one image in a memory;
 - the memory, coupled to the scanner and to the control unit, for storing the at least one image that is scanned;
 - the printing mechanism, coupled to the control unit and arranged to receive paper from the paper-feeding slot, for printing the at least one image that is scanned; and
 - the control unit, coupled to the printing mechanism, the memory, the scanner and arranged to initiate feeding of the paper into the printing mechanism and the film into the scanner in a predetermined fashion, for, in response to user input, causing the scanner to scan a selected portion of the film to provide the at least one image, store the at least one image in the memory and print the at least one image on the paper.
20. The printer of claim 19 further including a menu selection unit, coupled to the control unit and the scanner, wherein the at least one image for the at least one print is selectable by the user from a menu of images available on the film.
21. The printer of claim 20 wherein the menu selection unit further provides for selection, by the user, of a designation of each image of the film that is desired to be printed.

22. The printer of claim 20 wherein the menu selection unit provides for the user to select a desired number of prints of each selected image.
23. The printer of claim 20 wherein the menu selection unit provides for selection of a print size of the image to be printed from a plurality of output image sizes.
24. The printer of claim 19 wherein the film-feeding slot is one of a plurality of film slots.
25. The printer of claim 24 wherein one of the plurality of film-feeding slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a film strip for 35 mm film.
26. The printer of claim 24 wherein one of the plurality of film-feeding slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a slide for 35 mm film.
27. The printer of claim 19 wherein the film is one of: a film with a negative image and a film with a positive image.
28. The printer of claim 19 wherein the computer is coupled to at least one of the control unit and the scanner, for uploading scanned images to the computer for storage.
29. The printer of claim 19 wherein the scanner includes a first digital imaging device.
30. The printer of claim 29 wherein the first digital imaging device is one of: a charge-coupled device and a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor.

31. The printer of claim 19 wherein the printer includes a removable storage unit, removably coupled to the control unit and the scanner, for storing the at least one image in the removable storage unit.
32. The printer of claim 31 wherein the removable storage unit is one of a flash memory card and a writable compact disc.
33. The printer of claim 19 wherein the printer includes a display, coupled to the control unit and the scanner, for displaying the at least one image.
34. The printer of claim 33 wherein the display is further coupled to a second digital imaging device to show live pictures being captured by the second digital imaging device and to allow the user to center the at least one image before printing.
35. The printer of claim 19 wherein the menu selection unit further provides for selection of at least one of: zooming in, zooming out, cropping, removing "red eye" from the image and directing scanning of a selected plurality of images.
36. The printer of claim 19 wherein the at least one film feeding slot is coupled to a film-feeding device that passes film over the scanner.
37. A printer for, as well as printing output from a computer, printing images directly from a film, comprising:
 - at least one paper-feeding slot, arranged to allow paper to feed into a printing mechanism of the printer;
 - at least one film-feeding slot, arranged to feed film into a scanner;
 - the scanner, coupled to a control unit, for scanning at least one image from the film;

the printing mechanism, coupled to the control unit and arranged to receive paper from the paper-feeding slot, for printing the at least one image from the film; and

the control unit, coupled to the printing mechanism and the scanner and arranged to initiate feeding of the paper into the printing mechanism and the film into the scanner in a predetermined fashion, for, in response to user input, causing the scanner to scan a selected portion of the film to provide the at least one image and send the at least one image to the printing mechanism and the printing mechanism to print the at least one image on the paper.

38. The printer of claim 37 further including a menu selection unit, coupled to the control unit and the scanner, wherein the at least one image for the at least one print is selectable by the user from a menu of images available on the film.
39. The printer of claim 38 wherein the menu selection unit further provides for selection, by the user, of a designation of each image of the film that is desired to be printed.
40. The printer of claim 38 wherein the menu selection unit provides for the user to select a desired number of prints of each selected image.
41. The printer of claim 38 wherein the menu selection unit provides for selection of a print size of the image to be printed from a plurality of output image sizes.
42. The printer of claim 37 wherein the film-feeding slot is one of a plurality of film slots.
43. The printer of claim 42 wherein one of the plurality of film-feeding slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a film strip for 35 mm film.

44. The printer of claim 42 wherein one of the plurality of film-feeding slots is a slot arranged to accommodate a slide for 35 mm film.
45. The printer of claim 37 wherein the film is one of: a film with a negative image and a film with a positive image.
46. The printer of claim 37 wherein the computer is coupled to at least one of the control unit and the scanner, for uploading scanned images to the computer for storage.
47. The printer of claim 37 wherein the scanner includes a first digital imaging device.
48. The printer of claim 47 wherein the first digital imaging device is one of: a charge-coupled device and a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor.
49. The printer of claim 37 wherein the printer includes a removable storage unit, removably coupled to the control unit and the scanner, for storing the at least one image in the removable storage unit.
50. The printer of claim 49 wherein the removable storage unit is one of a flash memory card and a writable compact disc.
51. The printer of claim 37 wherein the printer includes a display, coupled to the control unit and the scanner, for displaying the at least one image.
52. The printer of claim 51 wherein the display is further coupled to a second digital imaging device to show live pictures being captured by the second digital imaging device and to allow the user to center the at least one image before printing.

53. The printer of claim 38 wherein the menu selection unit further provides for selection of at least one of: zooming in, zooming out, cropping, removing "red eye" from the image and directing scanning of a selected plurality of images.
54. The printer of claim 37 wherein the at least one film feeding slot is coupled to a film-feeding device that passes film over the scanner.
55. The printer of claim 37 wherein the control unit includes a processor programmed with a predetermined scheme that sends scanned information to the printing mechanism for printing without intermediate storage of the scanned information.
56. The printer of claim 37 wherein the scanner includes a processor programmed with a predetermined scheme that sends scanned information to the printing mechanism for printing without intermediate storage of the scanned information.